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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,554	03/29/2004	Herbert Johann	4452-622	1406

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EXAMINER

LORENCE, RICHARD M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3681

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/811,554

Applicant(s)

JOHANN ET AL.

Examiner

Richard M. Lorence

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 27-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9-26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 March 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/29/04 & 7/16/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is the first Office action on the merits of Application No. 10/811,554 filed on March 29, 2004. Claims 1-33 are currently pending.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because Figure 3 includes the reference characters 53, 57 and 59 which are not mentioned in the description. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because in line 6 of paragraph [0025] "30" should be -- 33 --. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 4-6 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4 recites the limitation "the control system" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the pressure control system" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 33 recites the limitation "the control system" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 28 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeshita et al. (GB 2121489). Note Figure 3 which shows the hydrodynamic clutch arrangement including the clutch housing with a drive-side wall 21 and a takeoff-side wall 22, the pump wheel 48, the turbine wheel 35, and the clutch 59, 60 for selectively connecting the pump wheel with the housing. The clutch is opened (disengaged) when the drive is started since the springs 58 bias the clutch member 59 radially inward until the housing reaches a predetermined speed. Takeshita et al. also shows the bridging clutch (not numbered) disposed between the drive-side wall and the turbine wheel.

Claims 1-8, 27 and 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Murphy '209. Note Figure 1 which shows the hydrodynamic clutch arrangement B including the clutch housing 20 with a drive-side wall 20a and a takeoff-side wall 20b, the pump wheel B-1, the turbine wheel 25, the clutch C for selectively connecting the pump wheel with the housing, the separating wall 44 and control chamber 43. The pressure control system is shown in Figures 2 and 3.

Claims 1-8, 28 and 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Allen et al. '417 which shows the hydrodynamic clutch arrangement 11 including the clutch housing 16, the pump wheel 12, the turbine wheel 13, the clutch 27 for selectively connecting the pump wheel with the housing, the separating wall with passage 28 leading to a control chamber 43, bridging clutch 31, and pressure control system 36.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeshita et al. (GB 2121489) in view of Schmid '383. The bridging clutch of Takeshita et al. does not include a torsional vibration damper. Schmid provides evidence that it was known at the time the invention was made to provide a bridging clutch 106 with a torsional vibration damper 12. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the bridging clutch of Takeshita et al. with a torsional vibration damper in order to reduce the amount of vibration transmitted through the driveline as was well known.

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al. '417 in view of Schmid '383. The bridging clutch of Allen et al. does not include a torsional vibration damper. Schmid provides evidence that it was known at the time the invention was made to provide a bridging clutch 106 with a torsional vibration damper 12. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the bridging clutch of Allen et al. with a torsional vibration damper in order to reduce the amount of vibration transmitted through the driveline as was well known.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on March 29, 2004 and July 16, 2004 have been considered by the examiner.

Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The examiner further cites Swennes '745, Ahlen '551,

Kundermann '887, Leber '208 and Leber '209 which show hydrodynamic couplings having a clutch for connecting a dive housing with a wheel.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard M. Lorence whose telephone number is (571) 272-7094. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 9:00AM to 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Richard M. Lorence
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

Lorence/rml